



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

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The problem with India's free trade agreement strategy



CONTEXT: India's renewed emphasis on external economic engagement has led to the conclusion of major trade agreements with the UAE, Australia, U.K., and New Zealand.

Preferential Trade Agreement	Partial tariff reductions on select goods
Free Trade Agreement	Broad elimination of tariffs/barriers between members
Customs Union	FTA + common external tariff
Common Market	Customs union + free movement of labour and capital
Economic Union	Common market + harmonised economic policies

Key Drivers Behind India's Push for FTA's

- **Achieving Ambitious Export Targets:**
 - **USD 2 trillion in total exports** (USD 1 trillion each in merchandise and services) **by 2030–31** – doubling exports from around **USD 850–860 billion in FY 2025–26**.
- **Integration into Global Value Chains: India–European Free Trade Association– Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement:** pledged USD 100 billion of investment over 15 years.
- **Market Diversification:**
 - **Commerce Ministry** – North America accounted for **22.1% of India's merchandise exports** in **FY 2025–26**.
 - India ranks 3rd among Global South economies in trade partnership diversity (**UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2025**).

- **Boosting Labour-Intensive Sectors:** "Mother of all Deals," the **India–EU FTA** concluded in January 2026, provides zero-duty access for textiles and clothing.
- **Competitive Necessity (China Plus One Strategy):** India faces a short window of opportunity to position itself as a "China Plus One" hub.
 - **B/w 2000 and 2025** – India signed 15 new trade agreements
- **Strategic Geo-Economic Balancing:**
 - **Oman's Indian Ocean ports** (Sohar, Duqm, and Salalah) can serve as **alternative logistics hubs**, reducing dependence on the Strait of Hormuz during disruptions



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Key Issues Associated with India's FTAs

- **Widening Trade Deficits:** trade deficit with ASEAN increased from **\$10.4 billion in 2012 to \$51.2 billion in 2025**.

TABLE 1: India's trade with key FTA partners (in \$ billions)

Partner	Indicator	2012	2015	2018	2021	2024	2025
ASEAN	Export	32.3	26.35	36.25	40.68	42.71	35.96
	Import	42.74	41.47	57.51	64.84	81.87	87.19
	Trade balance	-10.44	-15.12	-21.26	-24.16	-39.16	-51.23
Japan	Export	6.4	4.5	4.8	6.1	5.8	6.1
	Import	12.4	9.6	12.6	14.4	18.9	20.9
	Trade balance	-5.95	-5.17	-7.83	-8.34	-13.06	-14.77
South Korea	Export	4.1	3.6	4.8	7.1	6	6
	Import	13.7	13.1	16.4	17.1	20.9	21.1
	Trade balance	-9.6	-9.48	-11.62	-9.97	-14.98	-15.12
Singapore	Export	13.6	7.8	10.5	10.7	15.7	10.7
	Import	7.8	7.4	14.5	18.2	20.5	23.7
	Trade balance	5.76	0.4	-3.99	-7.55	-4.87	-12.97

- **Low FTA Utilisation Rates:** While developed economies often see FTA utilization rates of 70–80%, Indian utilization typically hovers between 20% and 30%.
- **Tariff Asymmetry:**
 - *Singapore, Japan, Australia, and the UAE* maintain very low import tariffs, whereas India's trade-weighted tariff averages around 12.6%.
 - **When India lowers tariffs for an FTA partner, the partner gains massive new access to the Indian market.**
- **Inverted Duty Structure:**
 - 7.5–10% import duties on inputs such as steel and aluminum v/s **duty-free** – fully assembled machinery and engineering goods from FTA partner countries.
 - **Undermining domestic value addition** – more profitable to manufacture in ASEAN and export finished products to India duty-free.

- **Emerging Non-Tariff Barriers:**
 - **EU's** Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (**CBAM**) effectively imposes a carbon tax on imports like steel and aluminum.
 - **2026** – Japan suspended fresh **mango imports from India** due to critical lapses in *pest-control and fumigation procedures* at Indian treatment facilities.
- **Limited Integration into Global Value Chains**

Way Ahead

- **Create a Dedicated "FTA Impact Monitoring Authority":**
 - Aisling performance audits on a sector-by-sector basis.
- **Launch a "Global Compliance-as-a-Service" (GCaaS) Digital Hub:**
 - maps a company's specific product (via HS code) to the exact regulatory compliance checklist, packaging requirements, and chemical standards of the target FTA destination.



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- Set up **dedicated trade helpdesks** across industrial hubs (*like **Surat for textiles or Tiruppur for garments***) to educate small-scale entrepreneurs
- **Link PLI benefits to FTA Utilization:** meet specific export quotas for FTA partner countries.
- **Fight Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) via Mutual Recognition:**
 - If an **Indian regulator certifies a product** inside India, partner nations must be legally bound to accept that certification.
- **Strengthen domestic capabilities**

Mains Practice Question

"Despite an expanding network of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), India has not fully realised their export potential. Examine the reasons for the underutilisation of FTAs and suggest measures to improve their effectiveness."

(15 Marks, 250 words)



E20: Solving One Crisis OR Creating Another?



CONTEXT: AAP party convener Arvind Kejriwal proposed march towards PM residence to submit petition against E20 blended fuel.

Ethanol (ethyl alcohol) is a **biofuel** produced through the **fermentation of sugars by yeasts**.

Generations of Biofuels and Their Feedstock

Generation	Description & Feedstock	Key Characteristics
 1st Generation Biofuel	Produced from edible items like sugar, corn, starch. Feedstock: Edible biomass (Sugarcane, Corn, Wheat)	Competes with food security; technologically mature but ecologically taxing
 2nd Generation Biofuel	Produced from leftover food crops like rice husk, wood chips. Feedstock: Non-edible biomass (Agri-residue, Paddy Stubble, Bamboo)	Helps address crop burning (Punjab/Haryana); complex and costly conversion
 3rd Generation Biofuel	Produced from microorganisms like algae. Feedstock: Algae-based	High yield; no need for arable land or freshwater; still in R&D stage in India
 4th Generation Biofuel	Produced from genetically engineered crops like GM crops. Feedstock: Genetically modified crops/organisms	Designed for higher carbon capture; largely theoretical at present

Ethanol Blending Programme:

- In India, it is **mainly derived from sugarcane molasses**, with increasing use of maize, surplus rice, and damaged foodgrains.
- Blending:** It involves *mixing ethanol with motor fuel (petrol)* to reduce the consumption of imported crude oil.
- Ethanol blending** has increased from **less than 1.5% in 2013-14 to 20% in 2025-26**.
- India achieved the **20% blending target five years ahead of schedule**.
- Ethanol production capacity** has expanded nearly fivefold, from 421 crore litres in 2014 to about 2,000 crore litres in 2026.

Significance of Ethanol Blending Programme

- Bolsters India's Energy security:**
 - India has over 88.5% crude oil import dependence – reduce india's vulnerability to global events

- Foreign Exchange Savings:** From 2014-15 to May 2026:
 - ₹1.90+ lakh crore saved in foreign exchange.
 - 310+ lakh metric tonnes of crude oil substituted.
- Reduces Emissions:**
 - NITI Aayog**, E20 fuel – reduce carbon monoxide emissions by 50% in two-wheelers and 30% in four-wheelers.
 - ~930 lakh metric tonnes of CO2** emissions reduced since 2014-15.
- Bolstering Rural Economy:**
 - transformed farmers from Annadatas to "Urjadaatas" (energy providers)*
 - promoting the cultivation of various crops (like maize, paddy) through an **assured market**.
 - ₹1.60+ lakh crore** in additional farmer earnings.
- Ethanol is a High-Performance Fuel:**
 - Ethanol is a **high-octane fuel**, with a research octane number of about 108.5, compared to **84.4 for petrol**.
 - Vehicles calibrated for E20 can deliver **better acceleration, smoother performance, and lower emissions**.



E20: Solving One Crisis OR Creating Another?



CONTEXT: AAP party convener Arvind Kejriwal proposed march towards PM residence to submit petition against E20 blended fuel.

- **Aligning with Global Best Practices:**
 - **United States** has standardised E10 and is expanding E15.
 - **Brazil, a global leader,** mandates **E27** and targets **35%**.
- **Promotes a Circular Bioeconomy:**
 - The **National Policy on Biofuels (2018, amended 2022)** expanded eligible feedstocks to include maize, damaged food grains, surplus rice, and agricultural residues.
- **Advances India's Climate and Biofuel Leadership:** aligns with India's commitments under the **Paris Agreement and the Global Biofuels Alliance**, (G20 summit in New Delhi, 2023) positioning India as a global leader in biofuel adoption.

Creating Another Crisis?

- **Compatibility with Older Vehicles:**
 - Ethanol is **hygroscopic (attract and hold water molecules)**, increasing the **risk of corrosion** in fuel systems, particularly in older vehicles.
- **Lack of Consumer Choice:**
 - **Unlike Brazil**, Indian consumers generally cannot choose **between E10 and E20** at fuel stations or benefit from differential pricing.
- **Reduced Mileage:** Many customers are claiming that their mileage has fallen due to E20 fuel.
- **Food v/s Fuel Trade-off :**
 - **Diversion of food crops**, such as rice for ethanol production **e.g.** FCI rice supplied to ethanol

distilleries increased from **3.2 million tonnes in 2024-25 to 4.4 million tonnes** in the current year.

- **Water Stress:**
 - Heavy dependence on **sugarcane, a water-intensive crop**, may worsen groundwater depletion in water-scarce regions.
 - CWMI, 2018 – **600 million Indians face high to extreme water stress**
- **Logistics and Storage:**
 - **cannot be handled like standard petroleum.**
 - Because it **absorbs water easily**, it cannot be transported through **existing underground petroleum pipelines**, which always contain trace amounts of moisture.
- **Impact on Soil Health:**
 - The **practices of monocropping** for biofuel feedstock crops (such as **rice, sugarcane**) can deplete the nutrients in the soil.
- **Increase in Import of Agricultural Crops:**
 - **Diversion of maize for ethanol production** raises maize imports and feed costs, as nearly **60% of India's maize is used by the poultry and livestock sectors**, adversely affecting dairy and poultry farmers.



E20: Solving One Crisis OR Creating Another?



CONTEXT: AAP party convener Arvind Kejriwal proposed march towards PM residence to submit petition against E20 blended fuel.

Way Ahead

- **A Phased Roadmap:** evaluating a roadmap for **introducing E21 by 2027 and E25 by 2029**.
 - **transition to higher blends** should be **preceded by extensive testing** on both new and older vehicles – *fuel-system durability, corrosion resistance, emission performance*.
- **Fuel Choice:** E10, E20, E25
 - choose fuel according to vehicle compatibility.
- **Flex-fuel vehicles:** engines that can run on flexible fuel
 - encourage mass production of flex-fuel vehicles via PLI support.
 - Offering **lower GST or road tax incentives** on Flex-Fuel Vehicles.
- **Sustainable Ethanol:** Ethanol expansion should **increasingly rely** on maize, surplus grains, damaged foodgrains, agricultural residues and second-generation ethanol.

- **Strengthen Circular Water Management:**
 - *ethanol plant uses only 3–5 litres of processed water per litre of ethanol.*
 - *zero liquid discharge, wastewater recycling, and reuse in ethanol distilleries to reduce freshwater withdrawal.*
- **Upgrading Logistics and Storage:** build moisture-controlled.
- **Food Security Before Fuel Security:** Use food grains **only after ensuring food security**, buffer stocks and drought preparedness.

Mains Practice Question

“Critically evaluate the impact of India's Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme on agriculture, rural economy, and energy security.”

(15 Marks, 250 words)



Newspaper: The Hindu , Page No. 5

G.S.2: Vulnerable sections;

Karnataka develops manual to build child-friendly villages across State

- **2025** – Halanayakanahalli in Bengaluru Urban district was recognised and rewarded by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj in the Child-Friendly Village category.**
- The village won a **National Panchayat Award** along with a **cash prize of ₹75 lakh.**

What does it say?

- **Systematic guidelines** framed for gram panchayat officials, presidents and members, school teachers, police officials, and individuals **who work directly and indirectly towards protecting child rights.**
- **100% enrolment and attendance of children** in schools and anganwadis.
- No child should be left out of school or become a **child labourer** in agricultural fields or elsewhere.
- **Health:**
 - Apart from this, **100% immunisation of children** is mandatory.
 - **Health check-ups** must be conducted regularly to ensure that no child is malnourished.
- No to child marriage.
- **How To achieve this?**
 - **awareness programmes** will be conducted for children, parents and teachers.
 - **training based on the manual.**
 - Villages must have **well-maintained libraries** to help children develop reading habits, while also providing opportunities to **learn games and computer skills.**
- “Half of the problems in villages will end if there are no child marriages, child labour, or teenage pregnancies.”



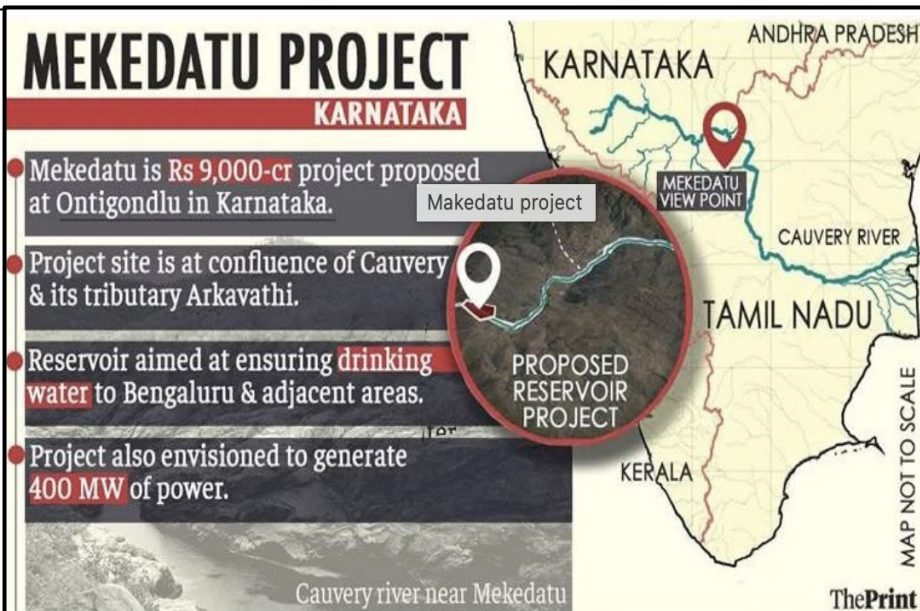
Cauvery water sharing

Syllabus: Prelims: Geography
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 1

- The **Cauvery Water Management Authority** endorsed the **Cauvery Water Regulation Committee** order directing Karnataka to release **3,500 cusecs** (around **4.5 tmc ft**) of water to **Tamil Nadu**, despite a **60% shortfall in reservoir inflows**.
- **Karnataka** opposed the order, arguing that irrigation has not yet commenced because of inadequate rainfall, while **Tamil Nadu** considered the allocated quantity insufficient and demanded release of the **of 9.8 tmc ft**, reigniting the long-standing inter-state river water dispute amid deficient monsoon rainfall.
- **Tamil Nadu** has opposed Karnataka's proposed **Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir Project**, urging the **Prime Minister** to withhold statutory and administrative approvals.

About Mekedatu Project:

- **Tamil Nadu argues** - without the consent of other basin States (Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry).



- **Established:** by Central Government in **2018** under the **Cauvery Water Management Scheme, 2018**, along with the **Cauvery Water Regulation Committee**.
- Statutory, quasi-judicial body under the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**.
- **Headquartered** in **New Delhi** under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- **Composition:**
 - headed by a **Chairperson** (Secretary/Additional Secretary-rank IAS officer or senior engineer).
 - comprises **two full-time members** (Water Resources and Agriculture), **two part-time members** from the Central Government, **four part-time members** representing the basin States (**Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry**), and a **Secretary** from the **Central Water Engineering Services**.
- **Functions:**
 - Provides a permanent institutional mechanism for implementing the Cauvery water-sharing arrangement - Regulates interstate Cauvery water releases.
 - Determines **distress-sharing** during low-rainfall years.
 - Monitors reservoir levels and flows through **CWRC**.



Cauvery water sharing

Syllabus: Prelims: Geography
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 1

About Cauvery River

- **Origin:** It rises at Talakaveri in the **Brahmagiri Range of the Western Ghats** (Kodagu district, Karnataka).
- **Flow:** South-east through **Karnataka and Tamil Nadu**, draining parts of **Kerala and Puducherry (Karaikal)** before entering the **Bay of Bengal near Poompuhar**.
- **Key Tributaries:**
 - ◆ **Left Bank:** Harangi, Hemavati, Shimsha, Arkavati.
 - ◆ **Right Bank:** Lakshmana Tirtha, Kabini, Suvarnavathi, Bhavani, Noyyal, Amaravati.
- **Key Dams:**
 - ◆ Krishna Raja Sagara in Karnataka
 - ◆ Mettur Dam (Stanley Reservoir) in Tamil Nadu.



Syllabus: Prelims: Science

Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 9

Problems associated with natural diamonds

- **Dwindling supplies:** world's largest diamond mines i.e.
 - Argyle mine in **Australia** and Diavik mine in **Canada**
 - have reached a point of exhaustion in recent years.
- **Damage to environment:**
 - requires large amounts of water and energy
 - associated with deforestation, displacement, soil erosion and water pollution.
 - Massive open-pit excavations can also *trigger landslides and mudslides*.
- **Workers are at risk** – may develop asbestos-related diseases, including asbestosis, pleural plaques, and mesothelioma. (lungs)
- **Blood diamonds:** mined diamonds involved in illicit sales and used to **fund military action** (political and civil conflict)
 - **Regulatory gaps:** Kimberley Process (certification scheme in 2003) was introduced to verify that diamonds are conflict-free.

Lab-grown diamonds

As Naturally occurring diamonds take millions of years to form; they are created when **carbon deposits buried within the earth** are **exposed to extreme heat and pressure**.

Project Superpressure, 1954:

- **High Pressure, High Temperature process**, which **mimics the conditions** under which natural diamonds form in the **Earth's mantle**.
- **Chemical Vapour Deposition, 1962:**
- Involves depositing diamond material onto **diamond seeds** through **chemical reactions involving carbon-rich gases**.

Features:

- Lab-grown diamonds are **chemically physically and optically identical** to their natural counterparts.
- Due to **improvements in the efficiency of laboratory equipment**, the price of lab-grown diamonds has continued to decline over the years.
- avoiding much of the damage linked to conventional production.
- **Variation in carbon emissions** – Diamonds created using coal-heavy power grids OR manufactured using renewable energy

India's push for lab-grown diamonds:

- **Union Budget 2023-24** – announced measures to encourage indigenous production of lab-grown diamonds, including support for research into HPHT and CVD technologies.
- **2023** – IIT Madras – **five-year grant of ₹243 crore** by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** to establish the **India Centre for Lab-Grown Diamond** (InCent-LGD).

Shift in public perception reflects a growing emphasis on ethical sourcing, environmental responsibility, and product traceability

Table 1: presents a comparison of natural and lab-grown diamonds, drawing on findings from the Natural Diamond Council's 2025 report and a 2021 study by Vladislav Zhdanov et al

Criterion	Natural diamonds	Lab-grown diamonds
Cost per carat in India	₹1.5–7 lakhs	₹80,000
Water consumption	0.077 m ³ /ct	0–0.002 m ³ /ct
Energy consumption	150 kWh/ct (DeBeers)	36 kWh/ct (HPHT) 214.7 kWh/ct (MP-CVD)
CO2 emissions	160 kg/ct	17–260 kg/ct

Diamond prices vary based on the 4Cs — carat, cut, colour and clarity. The values shown are representative market ranges.

Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill 2026



Syllabus: Prelims: Polity

Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 6

Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill 2026

- **Aim:**
 - Seeks to **strengthen the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969** by *tightening norms for delayed registration*.
 - Aligning legal provisions with the **Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita** (BNSS), 2023.
- **Registration after one year of occurrence: Under the Act**, an order is required to register a birth or death for which information is given to the Registrar after one year of its occurrence. Such an order may be issued by:
 - (i) a district magistrate, (ii) a sub divisional magistrate, or (iii) an executive magistrate authorised by the district magistrate.
- **The Bill instead** provides that for a **delay of more than two years**, the order may be issued **only by a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class**.
- **Legal Harmonisation:** Replaces references to the (CrPC), 1973 with the BNSS, 2023.
- **Encouraging Timely Registration:** The amendments aim to promote timely reporting of births and deaths, improving the *reliability of civil registration records*.

- Mandates the **registration of all births, deaths, and stillbirths** at the place of occurrence.
- **Registration Authorities:** The **Registrar General of India (RGI)** oversees the national system, while **Chief Registrars, District Registrars, and Local Registrars** manage registration and issuance of certificates.
- **Reporting Timeline: Births, deaths, and stillbirths** must be reported **within 21 days** of occurrence; delayed registration attracts the prescribed late fee.

2023 amendment :

- Rendered **birth certificates the principal, proof of date and place of birth** for school admission, voter rolls and applications for passport, Aadhaar, driving licence and government jobs.
- **Civil Registration System (CRS):** create digital databases, and required them to share data with the Registrar General.



Real-time portal for organ transplant



Syllabus: Prelims: Polity

Newspaper: Indian Express, **Page No.** 1

Context: *National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)* marks a major step towards making the organ transplantation system more transparent, efficient and equitable.

- launched a **dynamic, real-time portal and mobile application** that will generate a **country-wide waiting list and update the status** of recipients waiting for organs.
- The portal will also **allow hospitals, states and regional bodies to raise "super urgent" requests** based on the condition of recipients.
- real-time tracking of organ allocation, nationwide **matching of swap donors** and recording of transplant outcomes.
- **Promotes organ donation** through *Aadhaar-linked pledges*.
- **Track outcomes of transplantation:**
 - **At present**, there is **no national database** on the outcomes of transplantation — hospitals typically maintain such data individually.
 - hospitals being asked to fill details about patients' health parameters during their follow-up visits.

How does the portal work? How does one register?

- Can be registered on the portal **by a hospital of their choice** offering the service.
- **Only hospitals, state government health departments and NOTTO** can access the portal through their login IDs.
- Based on the data entered, a hospital-level, state-level, regional-level and national-level

waiting list will be created, and the organ will then be transported as per allocation.

According to **NOTTO data of 2025:**

- Delhi leads in the total number of transplants (4,564).
- Tamil Nadu conducts the highest number of deceased donor transplants (266).
- The kidney is the most transplanted organ (14,477), followed by the liver and heart,

Key Challenge:

Different allocation criteria followed by various states:

- *West Bengal, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Kerala* **prioritise** those who **registered earlier as recipients**.
- **Tamil Nadu** – state is divided into three regional zones, with organs remaining within their specific zone and, if unutilised, allocated to other zones.
- **Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh** give priority to patients who do not have a living donor, or whose matched living donor has refused to donate.



Real-time portal for organ transplant



Syllabus: Prelims: Polity

Newspaper: Indian Express, Page No. 1

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation

- NOTTO is a national-level organization established under the Directorate General of Health Services, **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Government of India.
- **Headquarters:** Located on the Institute of Pathology (ICMR) Building, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.
- **Aim:**
 - To coordinate, regulate, and promote organ and tissue donation and transplantation in India.
 - Facilitate the safe and efficient allocation and utilization of organs and tissues.

• **Functions:**

- Act as the **apex body for coordinating** organ procurement, allocation, and distribution across regions.
- Maintain a **National Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplant Registry**.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Promote organ donation through public awareness initiatives.



Q1. Regarding the different generations of biofuels, consider the following statements:

1. First-generation biofuels are primarily produced from food crops rich in sugar, starch or vegetable oil.
2. Second-generation biofuels are produced from lignocellulosic biomass and agricultural residues, thereby avoiding direct competition with food crops.
3. Third-generation biofuels are derived mainly from municipal solid waste and used cooking oil.
4. Fourth-generation biofuels involve genetically engineered organisms and may be coupled with carbon capture technologies to achieve carbon-negative emissions.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

Answer: c

Q2. With reference to the Cauvery River, consider the following statements:

1. The Cauvery originates in the Brahmagiri Range of the Western Ghats and finally drains into the Bay of Bengal near Poompuhar.
2. The river flows through the States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, while also draining parts of Kerala and the Union Territory of Puducherry.
3. Harangi and Hemavati are right-bank tributaries of the Cauvery, whereas Kabini and Bhavani are left-bank tributaries.
4. Both the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam and the Mettur Dam are located on the main stem of the Cauvery River.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: a

Q3. Regarding the Lab-Grown Diamonds (LGDs), consider the following statements:

1. Lab-grown diamonds are produced either by replicating the high-pressure conditions of the Earth's mantle or by depositing carbon onto diamond seeds from carbon-rich gases.
2. Lab-grown diamonds differ from natural diamonds in their chemical composition but possess similar optical properties.
3. The environmental footprint of lab-grown diamonds depends significantly on the source of energy used during their production.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q4. With reference to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, consider the following statements:

1. Every birth, death and stillbirth occurring in India is required to be registered at the place of its occurrence.
2. The Registrar General of India is responsible for issuing birth and death certificates across the country.
3. As per the 2023 amendment, the birth certificate has been made the primary proof of date and place of birth for purposes such as school admission, passport, Aadhaar and government employment.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a

Q5. With reference to the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO), consider the following statements:

1. It functions as the apex national body for coordinating organ procurement, allocation, and distribution in India.
2. It maintains the National Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplant Registry.
3. It functions under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) as an autonomous organization.
4. It is responsible for promoting public awareness regarding organ and tissue donation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: a





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